



SECOND EXTRA-ORDINARY SESSION OF COMEDAF VI BUREAU

THE OUTCOMES OF THE MEETING

The second extra-ordinary session of the Bureau of the Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union (COMEDAF VI) was held in Kigali, Rwanda on the 8th of February 2015. The meeting was called so that COMEDAF could contribute to the African position on the global post 2015 Education Programme. Moreover, UNESCO had called a meeting for Ministers of Education in Sub-Saharan Africa to meet from 9th to 11th February 2015, and the African Union Commission is keen to ensure that the outcome of the UNESCO meeting will represent all Africa geographically and politically. The Bureau meeting was open to all the African Ministers of Education who were present. The extra-ordinary COMEDAF VI Bureau session had the following objectives:

- i. Provide the continental perspective on education development, taking into account the AU Summit Decisions on the COMEDAF VI report, the Common African Position and Agenda 2063
- ii. Enable these important decisions and perspectives to be taken on board in the discussions, and also contribute to the development of the post 2015 Education Strategy for Africa.

In conclusion, after discussions and exchanges among delegations, the meeting agreed on the following important elements for reflection in view of developing a continental strategy for Post 2015 Education.

- The necessity of recording all contributions, success stories, needs and challenges and ensure that they are considered when developing the continental strategy for Post2015 Education;
- The need to redefine the role of Schools in an evolving world, so as to avoid or reduce negative effects of new and emerging developments;
- The need to redefine basic education as completion of secondary level in order to ensure significant levels of functional skills for life and career choices for decent work; and strengthen the safety nets for children against child labor, child marriage and reversal into illiteracy;
- The challenge of the so-called fragile African States' ability to respond effectively and efficiently to different commitments in Education;
- As expensive as quality Education may seem, Africa is paying a much higher price for lack of education. - This implies the necessity of investing in education;
- The need for Africa to continue to speak as one and address the full spectrum of education as both a human right and a development imperative;
- The need for Africa to include African values in its pedagogical approaches so as to strengthen the spirit of African citizenship and Pan-Africanism among young people;
- The urgency for Africa to establish a harmonized Education Management Information System;
- The need to build African ability to effectively evaluate education and to compile credible and sustainable data that inform actions and interventions in education;
- The promotion of Africa's diversity and culture as a wealth and pride of generations

- Effecting the role of parliamentarians in education- to enact appropriate legislations and push for the adoption of adequate national budgets to support the implementation of international commitments in favor of education and African development.

Regarding the relations with UNESCO, the debate was left open so as to allow member States to continue the reflection, as well as the Commission, UNESCO and the African Group of Ambassadors to UNESCO;

The meeting recognized the importance of school feeding on the overall performance of the education system. AU Member States were encouraged to sustain such programs, which also support agricultural development, and to extend school feeding to secondary education;

The African ministers of Education present at the extra-ordinary session of the Bureau of COMEDAF VI in Kigali on February 8th, 2015 made a commitment to endorse the EFA evaluation conducted by UNESCO, which is in line with the mid-term evaluation of the Second Decade of Education for Africa undertaken in 2011.

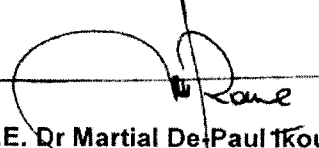
They agreed to consider that the addition of our joint efforts through the mid-term evaluation of the Second Decade of Education for Africa, the EFA evaluation of the UNESCO network, the knowledge of the environment by all stakeholders working in the areas of education in Africa plus various actions already undertaken, will be sufficient to be considered as the final evaluation of the Second Decade of Education for Africa.

All ministers of education of the AU Member States and all stakeholders working in the field of education in Africa were invited to engage in the process from Kigali to Incheon, Korea, and to New York during UNGA for the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals Post 2015, so as to express the views of a united Africa, according to the Common African Position and African Agenda 2063. The AU Commission was invited, in collaboration with the Bureau of COMEDAF VI, to synthesize the EFA evaluation of North Africa with that of Sub-Saharan Africa, and to complete the key aspects left out of the report and to move forward in the development of the continental education strategy 2016-2025.

Done in Kigali on the 8th February 2015

For the Bureau of COMEDAF VI

For the African Union Commission


H.E. Dr Martial De-Paul Kounga,
Commissioner, Human Resources, Science &
Technology

1st Vice Chair

H.E. Narciso Damasio DosSantos Benedito,
Secretary of State, Angola

